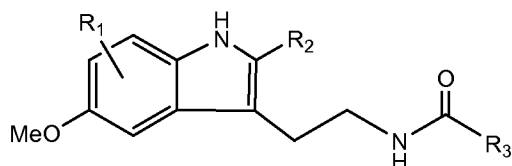


*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

Claims 1-36 (Cancelled).

37. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, ~~halo~~ a halogen or nitro,

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and

R<sub>3</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, OR<sub>4</sub>, SR<sub>4</sub>, NR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OR<sub>4</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>SR<sub>4</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NR<sub>4</sub>R or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>COR<sub>5</sub>

wherein

n is 0-10; and

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub>, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryl.

38. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein R<sub>3</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy.

39. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and R<sub>3</sub> is methyl.

40. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and R<sub>3</sub> is ethyl.

41. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and R<sub>3</sub> is cyclopropyl.

42. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and R<sub>3</sub> is cyclobutyl.

43. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and R<sub>3</sub> is methoxy.

44. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and R<sub>3</sub> is ethoxy.

45. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and R<sub>3</sub> is amino.

46. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and R<sub>3</sub> is dimethylamino.

47. (Previously Presented) The compound of any of claims 38-46, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, 4-(fluorophenyl), 3-(fluorophenyl), 2-(fluorophenyl), 4-(chlorophenyl), 3-(chlorophenyl), 2-(chlorophenyl), 4-(methylphenyl), 3-(methylphenyl), 2-(methylphenyl), 4-(methoxyphenyl), 3-(methoxyphenyl), 2-(methoxyphenyl), 4-(ethoxyphenyl), 3-(ethoxyphenyl), 2-(ethoxyphenyl), 4-(vinylphenyl), 4-(acetylphenyl), 3-(acetylphenyl), 2-(acetylphenyl), 4-(trifluoromethylphenyl), 3-(trifluoromethylphenyl), 4-(trimethylsilylphenyl), 3-(trimethylsilylphenyl), 4-(methylthiophenyl), 4-(*tert*-butylphenyl), 4-(dimethylaminophenyl), 4-(ethylphenyl), 4-(benzoxyphephenyl), 4-(biphenyl), 2-furanyl, 2-(thiophenyl), 2-(5-methylthiophenyl), 3-(thiophenyl), 2-(indolyl), 1-(naphthalenyl), 2-(naphthalenyl), 4-(dibenzofuranyl), 1-(thianthrenyl), 2,3-(dichlorophenyl), 2,5-(dichlorophenyl), 3,4-(dichlorophenyl), 3,5-(dichlorophenyl), 2,3-(difluorophenyl), 2,4-(difluorophenyl), 2,5-(difluorophenyl), 2,6-(difluorophenyl), 3,4-(difluorophenyl), 3,5-(difluorophenyl), 3,5-(dibromophenyl), 3,5-(bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl), 2,3-(dimethylphenyl), 2,5-(dimethylphenyl), 2,6-(dimethylphenyl), 3,5-(dimethylphenyl), 2,4-(dimethoxyphenyl), 2,5-(dimethoxyphenyl), 3,4-(dimethoxyphenyl), 2,3,4-(trimethoxyphenyl), 2,4,6-(trifluorophenyl), and 2,3,4,5,6-(pentafluorophenyl).

48. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein the compound is N-(2-(2-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)acetamide.

49. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein the compound is N-(2-(5-methoxy-2-methoxyphenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)acetamide.

50. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein the compound is N-(2-(5-methoxy-2-p-tolyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)acetamide.

51. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein the compound is N-(2-(2-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)acetamide.

52. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein the compound is N-(2-(2-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)acetamide.

53. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 37, wherein the compound is N-(2-(2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl)acetamide.

54. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing the compound of claim 37, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising reacting a 2-halo melatonin with aryl boronic acid in the presence of palladium catalyst.

55. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing the compound of claim 38, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising reacting a 2-halo melatonin with aryl boronic acid in the presence of palladium catalyst.

56. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 37 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

57. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 38 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

58. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 57, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises nanoparticles of the compound of claim 37.

59. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 58, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises nanoparticles of the compound of claim 38.

60. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 57, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises an anesthetic inducing effective amount of the compound of claim 37 and a pharmaceutically acceptable anesthetic carrier.

61. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 58, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises an anesthetic inducing effective amount of the compound of claim 38 and a pharmaceutically acceptable anesthetic carrier.

62. (Currently Amended) A method of inducing sedation, hypnosis and/or sleep, or general anesthesia in a patient, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 57.

63. (Currently Amended) A method of inducing sedation, hypnosis and/or sleep, or general anesthesia in a patient, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 58.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 63, wherein said administering step is completed by a method selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal respiratory administration, bolus injection, intravenous administration, continuing infusion, rectal administration, vaginal administration, sublingual administration, and cutaneous administration.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein said administering step is completed by a method selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal respiratory administration, bolus injection, intravenous administration, continuing infusion, rectal administration, vaginal administration, sublingual administration, and cutaneous administration.

66. (Currently Amended) A method for treating sleep disorders or chronobiological disorders in a patient, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 57.

67. (Currently Amended) A method for treating sleep disorders or chronobiological disorders in a patient, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 58.

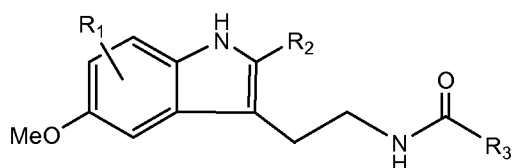
68. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a condition affected by melatonin activity in a patient, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 57.

69. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a condition affected by melatonin activity in a patient, ~~which method comprises~~ comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 58.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the condition affected by melatonin activity is selected from the group consisting of depression, epilepsy, jet-lag, work-shift syndrome, sleep disorders, glaucoma, reproduction, cancer, premenstrual syndrome, immune disorders, inflammatory articular diseases, neurodegenerative diseases of the central nervous system, and neuroendocrine disorders.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the condition affected by melatonin activity is selected from the group consisting of depression, epilepsy, jet-lag, work-shift syndrome, sleep disorders, glaucoma, reproduction, cancer, premenstrual syndrome, immune disorders, inflammatory articular diseases, neurodegenerative diseases of the central nervous system, and neuroendocrine disorders.

72. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or ~~halo~~ a halogen,

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, and

R<sub>3</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, OR<sub>4</sub>, SR<sub>4</sub>, NR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OR<sub>4</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>SR<sub>4</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NR<sub>4</sub>R or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>COR<sub>5</sub>

wherein

n is 0-10; and

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub>, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl or C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryl.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.